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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1911

THE NEW HARVARD ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS¹

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IN this address (a free abstract of which, written out later, is here given) it should be clearly borne in mind that the speaker is familiar only with eastern admission arrangements, and that what he says is wholly from the point of view of an eastern institution, with its own problems, in some respects different from those which meet the schools and universities of the west. Indeed, a knowledge of the real entrance requirements in any institution, as distinguished from the catalogue rules, can be gained only from an acquaintance with actual practise, for in the nature of the case the real requirements depend on the mode of administering the rules.

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The earlier entrance requirements at Harvard, as at all contemporary institutions, were determined by the fact that the subjects studied in school were generally to be continued in college. It was accordingly necessary to know whether a boy who applied for admission had reached the point in Latin, Greek and mathematics where he would be able to go on with college work in those subjects. This was substantially the case until soon after the beginning of the administration of President Eliot in 1869. A process of radical modification in the Harvard entrance requirements then began, and at successive periods since, about ten years apart, there have been important and far-reaching changes.

¹ Address at the annual meeting of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Association, Ann Arbor, Mich., March 31, 1911.